

COUNTRY

China

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DATE DISTR. 16 June 1948

SUBJECT

Political Information: The Estonian Community, Shanghai

NO. OF PAGES 19

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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GENERAL SITUATION

1. From 1931 to 1946 the number of members of the Shanghai Estonian community varied from 120 to 150. Of these members, about 30% were born in Estonia and spoke the language fluently; 60% were naturalized Estonian citizens through marriage or other means (see below); the remaining 10% were persons claiming Estonian citizenship or holding questionable passports. Now (April 1948) the Shanghai Estonian community consists of 110 persons; fewer than 70 of these are of Estonian origin, 32 of these 70 being born in Estonia. (See paragraph 16). The remainder of the present Estonian community became Estonian citizens through marriage, passport purchases, etc.
2. There is little political organization or activity on the part of the Shanghai Estonian community. The only meetings of a political nature which are held with any regularity are yearly celebrations such as Estonian Independence Day. The majority of the local Estonian community are poor workers, employed mostly with foreign firms. There have been several attempts on the part of the local Estonian community to organize a social group, but for various political reasons and the lack of necessary funds, this has not been accomplished. At present, the local community is organized under the Estonian Society (Community) "Eesti Selts", whose Executive Committee is as follows:
President: A. Lohmus
Secretary: V. Miller
Treasurer: A. Shillert
Member: P. Jakobson
Member and Advisor: A. Paraprinta
3. A. Lohmus is the unofficial Estonian Consul General in Shanghai and the Estonian Consulate is in his residence at 125/102 Avenue Roi Albert (South Shensi Road). Other members of the Consulate staff are the following Secretaries: Mrs. N. Lohmus (wife of A. Lohmus), L. Pronnik and V. Miller. The functions of the Estonian Consulate are negligible; members of the Estonian community visit the Consulate once a year to have their visas extended--this costs US\$7 per passport per year.

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DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA Approved For Release 2001/04/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001600110010-5

Date: 25/04/78 By: 029

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HISTORY

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4. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, the majority of the members of the Shanghai Estonian community were planning to return to Estonia. However, this was not possible because of the Japanese invasion of China. In 1939, an organization called "Eesti Selts" was formed with its office on the premises of "Domino" on Avenue Roi Albert. The organization had the use of one room on the third floor of this building; the room was furnished through P. Jakobson, an Estonian who gave the members of the organization permission to use the room once a week. The main purposes of "Eesti Selts" were to establish better contact with Estonia, to obtain Estonian literature for the use of members of the local community and to aid local Estonians who were in need. In 1939, the members of the Executive Committee of "Eesti Selts" were:

W. Jannes (? G. Janus), President
 E. Kask, Vice President
 V. Miller, Secretary

A. Shillert, Treasurer
 P. Jakobson, Member
 H. Bergman, Member

"Eesti Selts" was forced to close in 1940 because of action by Soviet officials in Shanghai (See paragraphs 5-6).

5. In the early fall of 1940 there were various indications that the Shanghai Estonian Consulate would be closed by the Soviet authorities. However, Paul Rumberg, then Estonian Consul in Shanghai, dismissed these rumors as unfounded. At that time the Estonian Consulate was at 232 Yu Yuen Road, the private residence of Rumberg. About September 1940, part of the documents of the Estonian Consulate were removed to the home of A. Shillert. At that time it was announced that the Estonian Consulate was moved to 203 Seymour Road, Apartment 2. This move was apparently accomplished because of increasing indications that the Soviet authorities would take control of the Estonian Consulate and its official records. In October 1940 it was announced that the Estonian Consulate was under the control of the local Soviet authorities and that Estonia was part of the USSR. At the time of this announcement, Rumberg became seriously ill and died a short time later.
6. In September 1940 the Soviet authorities issued the first demand regarding the turning over of the Estonian files. This demand was forwarded from the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo and was made by S. Budkevich, who came to Shanghai from Tokyo to take possession of the Estonian records for the USSR. This request of the Soviet authorities was made through V. Miller who acted on behalf of Rumberg. Miller, at that time Secretary of the Estonian Consulate, informed Putkevich that the files would not be turned over to the Soviet authorities and that the files would remain in the possession of the Estonian Consulate. Miller had no authority to act for the Estonian Consul General after Rumberg's death and A. Lohmus, Estonian Consul in Harbin, was notified to come to Shanghai to take charge of Estonian affairs in the area. On 19 October the Soviet authorities raided the Estonian Consulate and confiscated all the official papers on the premises.

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Comment: The following article appeared in the 19 October 1940 issue of the North China Daily News: "Soviet, Police and Court Officials Enter Premises, Consul Secretary Reports—An incident of international importance occurred in Shanghai on the morning of 18 October 1940 when representatives of the Soviet Embassy and the Soviet Consulate in Japan, Shanghai Settlement Police and First Special District Court officials proceeded to the Estonian Consulate at 203 Seymour Road and asked Estonian officials there to surrender their documents and archives, which they did. One cabinet containing documents was given to F. S. Badar of the West Hongkew Police who wrote a receipt for it, but the key for opening the cabinet was left in the hands of V. Miller, Honorary Secretary of the Estonian Consulate. Miller declared last night that although the Estonian Consular Archives had been taken away, it would help the Soviet authorities only a little 'as the Estonian Consulates and Legations are all over the world and automatically we are represented by the nearest Estonian Consulate.' He also mentioned that there are about 140 Estonians in Shanghai and that of this number only 2% have so far applied for Soviet passports. He asserted that the rest of the local Estonians did not wish to have anything to do with the Soviets. Miller alleged that at 11:05 a. m. representatives from the First Special District Court, including one Special

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Court armed guard, West Hongkew Police--in the persons of F. S. Badar and some Chinese Constables--and Soviet Embassy officials from Japan entered his office. He further alleged that M. Sharikov represented the Soviet Consulate in Tokyo and M. Sergei Budkevich (?Putkevich), Chief of the Consular Section of the USSR Embassy in Tokyo was also in the raiding party. There were five Estonian officials present at the time, including Miller himself. He alleged that the Settlement Police insisted that the Estonian officials surrender their keys, threatening to use force. A court order issued by Judge HSIAO was produced by the party. The Estonian officials asked for help. Mr. Long, Secretary of the Norwegian Consular Body, and Norwegian Senior Consul Mr. Scheel were said by Miller to have communicated with the Bubbling Well Police, but no help came. Miller and his colleagues were forced to surrender the documents. The cabinet containing Consular documents was kept by F. S. Badar until further notice, Miller said.").

7. After the above raid took place, A. Lohmus arrived in Shanghai (late October 1940). He convened a meeting of local Estonians and "Eesti Selts" was reorganized and a new organization, still under the name "Eesti Selts", was formed at 203 Seymour Road. The Executive Committee of the new "Eesti Selts" included:

A. Lohmus, President
V. Miller, Secretary
A. Shillert, Treasurer

H. Bergman, Member
P. Jakobson, Member
A. Paraprints, Member

When Lohmus was elected President, he promised to oppose the Soviet authorities. Since this meeting and election, Lohmus has refused to call another general meeting although the rules of the Society state that a meeting is to be called once each year. He gives no explanation for this except to state that no meetings are necessary; however, he knows that if a general meeting were called, he would probably lose his position.

After the raiding of the Estonian Consulate (see paragraph 6), Lohmus was given five cases of various Consulate records and files to keep (those which had been moved to the home of Shillert). To date, these files, containing important papers relating to the Estonian community, are being kept by Lohmus. Although he is acting as the representative of the Estonian community, it has been impossible for Estonian citizens concerned to get their political records and files--copies of passports, military records, etc.

8. During World War II when the Germans occupied Estonia in 1941, the Estonian Consulate in Shanghai arranged with the local German authorities for all Estonians in China to come under German protection. Lohmus's collaboration was accepted by the German officials and he even managed to get financial and medical aid from the German Consulate and to have the passports of Estonian citizens extended. During World War II in Shanghai, if any Estonian citizen wished to travel from one city to another, his passport had to be in order--i. e., the seal of the German authorities had to be affixed because the Japanese authorities did not recognize the Estonian passports not bearing the stamp of the German authorities. Lohmus supplied the German Consulate with a complete list of Estonians in Shanghai. The German authorities would extend the passport of an Estonian citizen in Shanghai if the citizen produced a membership card from the Estonian Society "Eesti Selts." These membership cards were issued only by Lohmus. During World War II in Shanghai, Lohmus was recognized by the German authorities as the head of the Estonian community. At the end of World War II in 1945, some local Estonian citizens were concerned because their passports had official German stamps on them and asked Lohmus about this matter. Instead of calming their worries, he actually increased their anxiety. However, for a certain amount of money Lohmus was willing to issue new passports to them. When Lohmus took over the Estonian Consulate in Shanghai and the remaining documents which were left after the Soviet authorities had finished, there were 128 blank Estonian passports. It is believed that some Germans in Shanghai escaped repatriation by obtaining one of these Estonian passports. There were two German women from the German Consulate in Shanghai who obtained Estonian citizenship by marrying Estonian sailors in 1945. One of these women was Baroness Knabe, a German Consulate Staff Secretary; she paid US\$300 to Mr. Aunapuu for the marriage. She was not interned nor repatriated, but left Shanghai alone for Switzerland in 1946 as an Estonian citizen. This entire affair with Knabe was arranged through the Shanghai Estonian Consulate.

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After 1941 in Shanghai, it was necessary for all Estonians desiring to leave Shanghai or desiring aid from the German Consulate (which took charge of Estonian affairs during the occupation of Shanghai) to be members of "Eesti Selts." A membership card was issued by A. Lohmus and signed by V. Miller. This card had to be presented to the German Consulate where the applicant was given a five page form to complete. The form consisted mainly of information regarding the life history of the individual desiring aid and was checked by the Representative of the German Government in Shanghai only after being checked and approved. In some cases it was necessary to get a doctor's certificate stating that the individual was ill and had to travel for reasons of health. The passport, which bore the seal of the German Consulate when approved, cost six German marks and was good for a period of six months. The only individuals who were required to pay were those who did not get aid of some sort from the German Consulate. Funds used by the Estonian Consulate in Shanghai were given by the German Consulate and in turn assessed against the Estonian Government. During the early days of World War II, 80% of the Estonian Community received aid from the German Consulate, the decision being left with Lohmus as to who actually needed aid. The majority of the Estonian community receiving assistance were poor people, mostly seamen. All arrangements for aid, etc. were handled through Lohmus of the Estonian Consulate and Bruveler of the German Consulate (See paragraph 17 for a list of Estonians who received aid).

9. In 1943 there were indications that Lohmus had not been representing the Estonian community property and a petition was started by Miller to have Lohmus replaced as the representative of the community. Lohmus was notified of this action and Miller was subsequently instructed by the Japanese authorities that it was forbidden to call any meetings without the proper authority. Permission to do this was not granted, and, to date Lohmus remains the unofficial representative of the Estonian community in Shanghai.
10. With the end of World War II, the Shanghai Estonian community received aid through UNRRA, the Estonians coming under the category of displaced persons. These matters were handled through Lohmus and all relief given was cleared through him first. There were indications that Lohmus received clothing for members of the Estonian community and sold it on the black market. With the proceeds from this sale, Lohmus bought clothing of an inferior quality to that originally issued, and distributed it to those Estonians who were in need. In this way, the demands of UNRRA were satisfied and at the same time Lohmus was able to make a profit for himself. Members of the local Estonian community did not oppose Lohmus because they were mostly poor people who feared the loss of the UNRRA aid in any form and because most of them felt that they would be repatriated to Estonia through the good offices of UNRRA. Some local Estonians tried to call a meeting to ask Lohmus about his activities with UNRRA and the trip of his wife and his wife's sister to the United States (see paragraph 11); however, this meeting failed.
11. In September 1946 Mrs. Nina Lohmus, wife of A. Lohmus, and Miss Val Didenko, sister of Mrs. Lohmus, left Shanghai for the United States. The principal reasons for their trip were to present the case of the Estonian community in Shanghai to Estonians in the United States and to request help for the Shanghai Estonian community. In press articles in Shanghai regarding their departure for the United States, both women were listed as Estonian citizens; Mrs. Lohmus went as a diplomatic representative and Miss Didenko went as a correspondent of the Estonian paper Meie Tee which is published in the United States. Both of these women are of pure Russian origin and neither of them speaks the Estonian language. Miss Didenko has no claim to Estonian nationality whatsoever and the local Estonian community was disturbed that she suddenly acquired Estonian citizenship and went to the United States as a representative of the local Estonian community. The expenses of the trip for the two women was paid by the Estonian gold reserve in Washington and dissatisfaction was expressed by the local Estonian community over the fact that the individuals chosen were not selected by the Estonian community itself and that neither of these women had previously expressed any interest in Estonian politics. None of the local Estonians know the outcome of the two ladies' trip and Lohmus refuses to divulge any details.
12. Members of the local Estonian community have approached Lohmus regarding entry into the United States. He has answered all inquiries with the statement that there is no quota for Estonian subjects (this is not true) and that Estonian subjects in Shanghai cannot apply for American immigration visas. It is known that at least two individuals have been able to purchase Estonian citizenship with the complete knowledge and approval of Lohmus (See paragraph 13).

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13. The following are persons in Shanghai who are not of Estonian origin but who hold Estonian passports:
- (1). O. Front, alias Oscar A. Tunner. He came to Shanghai in 1945 from Manchuria where he worked for the Japanese. From the Shanghai Estonian Consulate he obtained a temporary certificate which stated that he was born in Estonia. He also obtained Russian Emigre papers. However, Tunner is not Estonian, Finnish or Russian. His Russian (?emigre, ?Soviet) wife has admitted that her husband uses two names.
 - (2). P. Gordikov (Gordikoff) and K. Gordikov, brothers, and Mrs. M. Gordikov. The Gordikov brothers are of pure Russian origin; however, they obtained Estonian passports from Lohmus. Lohmus attempts to justify his action by stating that in 1940 when part of the Estonian Consulate documents were moved to the premises of Shiller (see paragraph 5), a relative of the Gordikov's, the brothers helped Lohmus protect the official documents from the Soviet authorities; however, the brothers had nothing to do with any such action.
 - (3). E. Puhl, an Estonian, had to pay the Estonian Consulate US\$125 for his wife's passport. K. Teinvold had to pay the Estonian Consulate US\$225 for his wife's passport. The exact number of passports issued by Lohmus upon payment of such fees is unknown.

A. LOHMUS

14. A. Lohmus was the Honorary Estonian Consul in Harbin from 1932-1940. While in Harbin, he ran an electrical business, one of the main sources of supply for the Chinese Eastern Railway which then belonged to the Soviet Government. Lohmus's business was fairly successful and he became a wealthy man. After 14 July 1940 when the USSR annexed Estonia, Lohmus left Harbin for Dairen, fearing Soviet action against him. In Dairen he helped Mr. Ruthe, Honorary Estonian Consul in Dairen, to hand over the Dairen Estonian Consulate documents to the Soviet authorities. With the death of P. Rumberg, Estonian Consul in Shanghai, V. Miller cabled Lohmus in Dairen asking Lohmus to come to Shanghai and help with Estonian affairs. Lohmus came to Shanghai from Dairen in October 1940 after the Soviet authorities had raided the Estonian Consulate in Shanghai (paragraphs 5-6) and simply took charge of the Estonian community. V. Miller, as Secretary of the Shanghai Estonian Consulate, asked Lohmus to assist him in resisting the pressure being applied by the Soviet authorities and Lohmus promised to help; however, Lohmus quieted the whole affair and cooperated with Vice Consul Sergeyev of the Shanghai Soviet Consulate. Some local Estonians believe that Lohmus does not wish to oppose the Soviet authorities because he fears he will lose his properties in Harbin. Not very long after his arrival in Shanghai, Lohmus opened a butter and cheese business which has provided him with a substantial income. At that particular period, it was extremely difficult to get dairy products and through his connections Lohmus managed to build up a successful business which he is still running. Except for Lohmus, no members of the local Estonian community take an active part in any official or political affairs. Lohmus, however, is an opportunist—he always cooperates with the people and Government in power and tries to present himself to the Estonian community as an Estonian patriot.

V. MILLER

15. V. Miller has been approached by a local Soviet citizen with the following proposition: Miller should take out a Soviet passport and advertise in the local papers that as an ex-Secretary of the Estonian Consulate and the "Testi Selts" Miller has left the Estonian community and no longer takes any active part in "Testi Selts" and/or the Estonian Consulate and that all members of the "Testi Selts" who are willing to change their passports should apply to V. Miller. If he does this, Miller was promised an important position in the Soviet Consular Service. His Soviet "friend" has warned Miller that he will be a fool if he does not accept this offer. Miller is very much afraid that probably the Soviet authorities have found out about the official order which Miller has destroyed. In 1940, when the USSR annexed Estonia, a registered letter came to Shanghai from the Soviet authorities in Estonia. Miller received the letter from the post office stating that all the Estonian Consular papers and documents were to be handed over to the

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Norwegian Consulate in Shanghai. Miller, who signed for this registered letter in the post office, destroyed the letter and did not even show it to the Consul General, who at that time was P. Rumberg, and refused to grant the order of to give up the Estonian documents, berating the Soviet authorities in the local newspapers when the documents were removed by force. Miller wants to go to the United States; he has two daughters who are married and living there now. At present he is an accountant for Bresler, import-export firm.

16. The following is a list of members of the Estonian community who are registered with the Estonian Consulate (the names of two persons are unknown; there are possibly ten to 15 more persons in Shanghai who hold Estonian passports but who are not really Estonians and are not properly registered with the Estonian Consulate. Names starred are those Estonian born in Estonia):
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(F) BACHMANN, G
(F) BAUMANN, A
(L) BAUMAN, (son)
(F) BENIEVSKY, J
(F) BENIEVSKY, LI
(F) BOCKLER, N
(M) BOCKLER, (son) *
(F) BAJENOFF, J
(F) DIDENKO, M
(F) DIDENKO, V. (sister of Mrs. Lohmus)
(F) DELKO, H
(M) ENNOCK, A *
(F) ENNOCK, M *
(M) REIBERK, J
(M) GORDIKOFF, P
(M) GORDIKOFF, K
(F) GORDIKOFF, M
(M) ILVES, M *
(F) ILVES, G
(F) YAKUB, L
(M) JAKOBSON, P *
(M) JANUS, G *
(F) JANUS, T *
(M) JOHANSON, K *
(F) JOHANSON, S *
(F) KARB, J
(F) KAFKA, T
(M) KASK, E *
(F) KAPUR, A
(M) KEISS, A *
(F) KERNER, A
(F) KESKULA, E *
(M) KOOL, L *
(M) KIRSCH, R
(F) KNORE, E
(F) KALINOVSKY, V
(F) KORONWITS, E
(M) LAKS, G *
(M) IESTCHINSKY, K
(M) IESTCHINSKY, J (son)
(F) IESTCHINSKY, N
(F) LAGUS, A
(M) LILIENTHAL, F *
(F) LILIENTHAL, L
(F) LILIENTHAL, L. A. (daughter)
(M) LEES, E
(F) LEES, J
(M) LILLO, R
(F) LILLO, L
(F) LAJUS, B
(F) MIKKOR, L *
(M) MILLER, V *
(F) MILLER, A
(M) MUUSIKAS, V *
(F) MUUSIKAS, E
(F) MUUSIKAS, H
(M) NIKITIN, A
(F) NIKITIN, S
(F) NEPOUMIASCHY, N
(M) COLE, F *
(F) PAULBERG, S *
(M) PARAPRINTS, A *
(F) PARAPRINTS, E
(F) PIKKON, P.
(M) PUHL, E *
(F) PUHL (wife)
(F) PROLIK, L *
(M) PROST, E *

(F) PROST, A
(F) RAUDSOO, R *
(M) RAUDSOO, S (son) *
(M) REINTHAL, F
(F) ROSENTHAL, E
(M) SAKS, A
(F) SCHILKE, A
(F) SCHILKE, E
(F) SCHILKE, E
(M) SEPMANN, E *
(F) SCHONBERG, A
(F) SCHONBERG, V.
(F) SCHONBERG, K
(F) SCHONBERG, E
(F) SCHONBERG, T
(F) SARAPOV, I
(M) SHILLERT, A *
(F) SHILLERT, A
(F) SANDAU, J
(M) SPRENGER, M.
(F) SPRENGER, H
(F) SPRENGER, E
(F) SOLIK, L
(M) TALK, A *
(F) TALK, (wife)
(M) NOEL, R *
(M) TUNNER, O. A.
(F) TUI, J
(F) TRAUTAG, I.
(M) THALBERG, H. A. *
(M) TALBERG, T. A.
(F) TALBERG, T. A. (wife)
(M) TEINVELD, K *
(F) TEINVELD, J.
(F) TEINVELD, D.
(F) KOVAL, A
(F) PODSTAVSKY, M.
(F) VINNAL, M
(F) WEINGLASS, E
(F) WEINGLASS, E

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